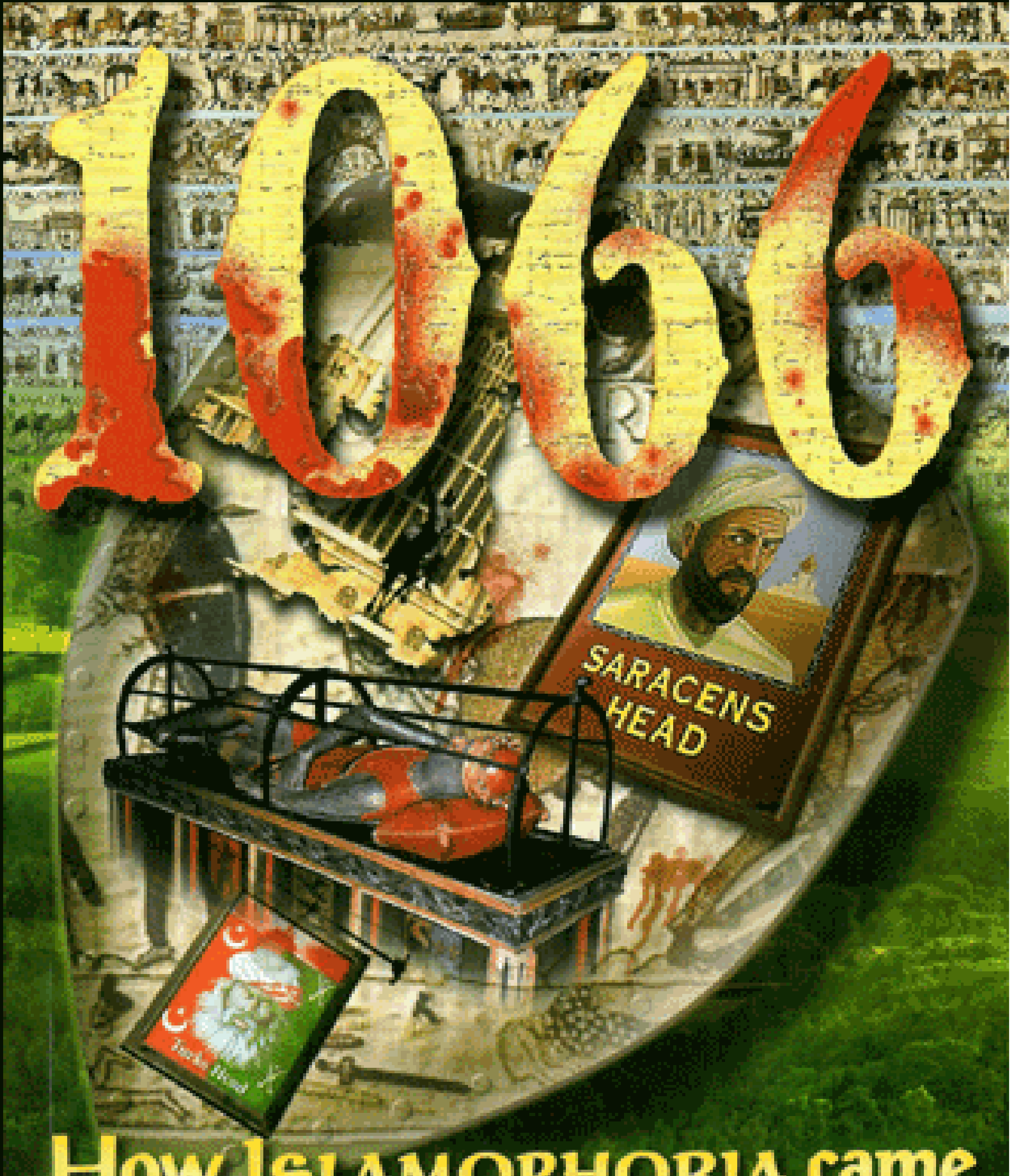
1066



How Islamophobia came to the British Isles

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ISBN XXXXXXXXXXX

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

First Edition 1422/2001 CE

Typeset by: Maktabah Al Ansaar Publications

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Published, Edited and Distributed by:

Maktabah Al Ansaar
316 Ladypool Road,
Birmingham B12 6JY
England. UK
Tel: ++ 44 (0) 121 449 1684
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Email: info@maktabah.net
Website: www.maktabah.net

Printed by: Vision Printing, Pakistan

World history from an Islamic perspective

Terminology

Readers are advised to use Islamic terminology if they are to really understand historical events properly.

CE Christian Era/Current Era

Crusades: Acts of Institutionalised (State-sponsored) International Religious Terrorism. This involved gross human rights violations, mass genocide, crimes committed against humanity including murder, rape, sodomy and every conceivable torture has been done to the victims of the Christian Era. Victims have included Christians themselves, Pagans, Muslims, Slavs, Irish, Africans, etc.

Iberian Peninsula

Today known as Portugal and Spain. These two countries did not exist when the Muslims / Moors ruled the Iberian Peninsula. Spain is only five centuries old whereas the Moors had a presence in the Iberian Peninsula for over eight centuries.

“Thus We have made you into a just Ummah so that you can be WITNESS against other nations, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves.”

Quran 2:143

'And thou seest many of them vying with one another in sin and transgression and their devouring of illicit gain. Verily evil is what they do'

Quran 5:62

'Why do not the ***rabbis*** *and the* ***priests*** *forbid their evil-speaking and* ***their devouring of illicit gain*** *? Verily* ***evil is their handiwork****'*

Quran 5:63

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Preface and Acknowledgements

This book and others in *World History from an Islamic Perspective* series would not have been researched and written without meeting Brother X – a revert to the religion of his enslaved ancestors. I first met Brother X when he returned to England after having travelled and studied in Sudan where he learnt Arabic, history, philosophy, etc. It was during a brief discussion that he suggested that there was a religious dimension to historical events such as European colonialism, African slavery and the voyages of discovery. Finding this hard to believe, I began borrowing library books to check to see if this was true. After several years of research, I have concluded that the definition of 'secularism' should be expanded to include '*the separation of religion from history*'. What is taught as history is in fact *his story*. In reality, the European Voyages of Discovery were in fact the *Naval Crusades*, the Protestant Revolution was in reality *The Protestant Crusade*, the First World War was *The Last Crusade*, the objective of the Crusades and Zionism is one and the same.

My thanks also goes to those brothers and sisters, work colleagues, acquaintances, family and friends who have suggested, advised, assisted, read unpublished versions of this book and provided valuable feedback.

Finally I would like to thank the publishers…

Publishers Note

This book is the first in a series of Islamic History books which shows its reader the reality of many Historical events and how the West have glossed, conveniently forgotten, manipulated and simply lied to absolve themselves from their bloody deeds.

History is always a testament to the future and we must be aware of our Islamic History and how we have allowed ourselves to be humiliated.

The Crusades are not over and will continue until the day we meet our Lord. This is evident from the conflicts in Bosnia, Kosova, Indonsia, Nigeria, Somalia as well as Palestine. Infact, in every part of the Muslim World conflict is instigated by the West, their allies and the friends of the Jews and Christians – the Rulers of the Muslim nations.

The God of secularism and the hatred of Islam is propagated.

Millions of Muslims are killed, their homes destroyed, their families broken up all in the name of freedom….

The question is should we remain silent when this fierce Jihad is being fought against us, against our mothers, against our children, against the teachings of our Prophet ε and against the will of Allah Y.

Allah Y says in the Quran:

…Nor will the unbelievers cease fighting you until they succeed in turning you away from your Religon if they can….

Surah Al Baqarah 217

This above ayah is very, very clear and if one was to look at the tafsir of Ibn Kathir, this ayah is barely explained. Allah Y tell us that the kuffar will never stop fighting us , until we ourselves(or they make us) become kuffar.

This brutal killing and slaying of Muslims must be halted. This suppression of the innocent must be stopped – we must not become indifferent to these continuous killings over the centuries.

We must look to the future

We know what we have to do

“Allah is the one who has sent his messenger with the Guidance and the True Religon to make it prevail over all other Religon, even though the polytheists may detest it”

Surah al Taubah 32 & 33

Maktabah Al Ansaar



Introduction

According to the Roman Christian calendar, 15th July 1999 marked the 900th anniversary when Crusaders first captured Jerusalem and slaughtered up to 70,000 Muslims i.e. over four and half centuries after Jerusalem had first fallen to the Muslims without a single loss of life. There has never been a religion in the annals of the world with such a bloody record as Christianity. Many of the murdering Crusaders were *Normans* from Normandy in Northern France. One of the Crusaders was William the Conqueror's eldest son, Robert Curthose – a Norman who took a British contingent with him to the Holy Land where he led assaults on Antioch and Jerusalem. After sacking Jerusalem in July 1099 CE, Robert's commanders offered to make him the king of Jerusalem, but he declined the nomination to get back to England. William's son-in-law, Count Stephen of Blois was killed in the Holy Land.

However, Muslims were not the first victims of Christian and Norman terrorism. The first victims were the English / British in 1066 CE i.e. 29 years before the First Crusade, when Pope Alexander 2nd excommunicated king Harold of England and gave papal blessing to Duke William of Normandy, to invade and subjugate England, and tax the English until Doomsday. The Norman Crusade of 1066 changed and determined the history of the British Isles ever after. Thereafter, for the Muslims, the *Sceptred Isles* became the *Islamophobic Isles*, playing an adversarial role in the Muslim world, even after the Protestant Revolution, and the introduction of secularism and Parliamentary Democracy.

Islamophobic Isles

At the time of the first Christian Millennium (1000 CE), the British Isles was a small backwater and culturally divided island on the northwest fringes of mainland Europe. It had been subject to numerous and brutal invasions for over a thousand years; first by the Romans in 55 BC, and then by the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, etc from 367 CE. From 793 CE, much of the British Isles came under the political hegemony of northern Europe e.g. the Danes and Vikings. By 1027 CE, Canute – a Dane, was king of England, Denmark and Norway and part of Sweden. In essence, the British Isles was a weak and backward colony.

However, in 1066 CE the British Isles – a relatively peaceful Christian state, was subject to an unprovoked and brutal conquest by a fellow Christian state – Normandy in Northern France. Normandy had only been Christian for less than two centuries i.e. much less than the British Isles. Under the hegemony of the Dukes of Normandy, the British Isles came into contact with Continental Europe and Muslims. Not only was England's wealth seized and transferred to Europe to finance the Crusades but the *Sceptred Isles* was transformed into the *Islamophobic Isles*, a united kingdom and an organised entity, with the capability of conducting its very first military campaign, one thousand miles away, into Islam's homeland – Palestine. And so began the alleged *English propensity to violence* and *ethical foreign policy.* Unlike Spain and France, which felt the presence of a powerful Islamic neighbour, this was never the case with the British Isles.

The victory of the Normans in 1066 brought revolutionary changes in its wake, not merely for southern Britain but in due course for the rest of the British Isles. Over the next millennium, Britain was transformed into one of the strongest and most influential countries in world history to dominate the world of Islam. The British Empire ruled more Muslim subjects than any other religious denomination.

The Norman Crusade of the British Isles also produced the everlasting '*Anglo-French Alliance*' against Islam (Crusades, Colonialism, First World War, Suez War); and the introduction of the following into the British Isles, for the first time:

o Institutionalised Islamophobia
o Militant Christianity
o Public houses named Sa*racens or Turks Head*
o Institutionalised Feudalism
o Taxation till Doomsday
o Jews
o The eternal '*Irish Problem*'
o Institutionalised Racism including anti-Semitism against Arabs and Jews; racism against the Irish, Turks and Africans
o Organisation, stability and administration through new or reformed institutions such as the Church, monarchy, government, army, academia (Oxbridge), etc

During the *global chess game* called *The First World War (Another Crusade / Great Conspiracy)*, the *Anglo-French*

Alliance fought against the Ottoman Caliphate on the *Eastern Front.* Britain and Germany were two theological (Protestant), military, political and royal allies since the time of Martin Luther. Britain's royal family are descendants of the German House of Saxe-Coburg Gotha and Mountbattenburg (now renamed *Windsor* – the name was changed during the First World War). Queen Victoria was married to her German cousin, Albert and her favourite grandson was the Emperor of Germany – Kaiser Wilhem 2nd. The Kaiser was also an officer of the British Army until the outbreak of *War*. The Great War started in Europe and spread into Islam's homelands.

Towards the end of the War, in 1917, Britain colonised its penultimate colony – Palestine – the '*Jewel in the Crown*', when General Allenby followed by T.E. Lawrence of Arabia, entered Jerusalem declaring: '*Today the Crusades have ended*'. In Damascus, the French General, Henri Gouraud strode to the tomb of Saluddin Ayyubi and publicly stated: '*Saladin, we have returned*'. At the end of the War, Britain and France effectively controlled all the Muslim lands from the Mediterranean east through India; over the next few decades, western domination over the Muslim world would be nearly complete as Turkey and Arabian Peninsula came under direct western control as a result of the Second World War, Cold War and Gulf War.

Meanwhile, millions were needlessly killed and wounded on the Western Front in *a war to end all peace*. The Establishment was prepared to oversee the deaths and disruption of millions of peoples' lives just to meet Zionist objectives. Obviously, these facts are hardly acknowledged

in the subject of '*His story*' – a highly secularised and distorted subject.

The Growth of Dar al-Islam

In the seventh century, the last Messenger of Allah, Muhammad ε united the Muslims of the Arabian Peninsula to spread the Last Divine Message to the whole of mankind. As a result, the religious, military and later the cultural power of Islam grew enormously in three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. First Iran, Syria, and Egypt, then Turkey, then North Africa fell to the Muslims. When Syria and Asia Minor fell to Muslim rule for the first time, they were welcomed by Christians of those regions as deliverers from the intolerable oppression of the ruling authorities of the Church[2].

The Muslims overran the tyrannical Byzantium (Eastern Roman) and Persian empires at the same time. During the ten years of Caliph Omar's (RA) reign, he liberated over forty thousand towns and built two thousand mosques. The Muslims saved more souls from false gods, toppled more idols, exposed more pagan temples in fifteen years than the followers of Moses and Jesus had done in fifteen centuries.

The Muslim advance incorporated three of the five Patriarchates (Alexandria, Jerusalem and Antioch) and nearly a fourth (Constantinople). When Jerusalem fell to Islamic rule in 638 CE, there was no bloodshed, nor massacres[1].

Muslims from Africa then made inroads into Southern Europe: Mediterranean islands of Cyprus (649 CE), Crete (654 CE) and Rhodes (654 CE). Muslims from Africa then advanced into the Iberian Peninsula (711 CE), southern France – Toulouse (715 CE); Sardinia (750 CE), Corsica (809 CE), Malta (824 CE) Sicily (827 CE) and southern Italy in 840 CE. Within one hundred years of the death of the Prophet ε of Allah Y, the caliphs had established an empire greater than Rome at its zenith[11].

By the ninth century, Muslims had established trading links with the Americas i.e. six centuries before Naval Crusader, Christopher Columbus. By the time of the first Christian Millennium, Yusuf bin Tachfin – sultan of the Almoravids (bin Yusuf in the film, *El Cid*) ruled an empire stretching from Senegal in the south; southern parts of the Iberian Peninsula in the north; to the Atlantic in the west, and included Algeria and Tunisia; an area larger than Western Europe.

The Growth of Dar al-Kufr

In the eighth and ninth centuries, the priesthood that ran Europe i.e. the Church / Vatican / religious *Mafia* created the *Islamophobic* Frankish / *Holy* Roman Empire and used the illegitimate son of a prostitute, Charles Martel (688-741 CE) and his illiterate grandson, Charlemagne (742-814 CE) to counter the spread of Islam into Europe. Charles Martel – *The Hammer* was the first to halt Muslim expansion into Europe, with a Frankish army victory in 732 CE at the Battle of Poitiers in Central France, in which the Muslim leader – the Emir of the Iberian Peninsula was murdered by a treacherous hypocrite. This defeat led to

the Franks becoming widely recognised as the real defenders of Christendom.

Charles Martel was advised by an English Benedictine monk / missionary called Boniface who struggled to christianise and civilise the barbarian Frankish / Germanic tribes of Europe, to counter the Muslim advance into Europe. Boniface was also responsible for unifying the church in Germany and organising churches in Bavaria, thereby bringing the Germanic tribes of Europe under papal control. Boniface was killed in 754 CE by pagans who resisted Christianity.[47]

Charlemagne – *Charles the great* who spent three decades spreading Christianity by the sword by conducting 53 expeditions and wars against 12 different nations (Avars, Slavs, Bretons, Lombards, Saxons, etc), also attacked the Muslims in the Iberian Peninsula several times but suffered a humiliating defeat in 778 CE when thirty thousand Moors trapped his army north of Pamplona,,. He saw his destiny as the evangelical Christian emperor of Europe, the presence of Muslims in the Iberian Peninsula as an insult and considered the war against Muslims as a crusade[23]. When Pope Urban 2nd launched the First Crusade in 1095, he invoked the name of Charlemagne to incite the Crusader knights[5].

Interestingly in June 2000, Bill Clinton who presided over the Balkan Crusades in Bosnia and Kosova, was the first North American president to receive the *Charlemagne* prize from the city of Aachen (Charlemagne's residence), for his contribution to European unity.

Following Charlemagne's death, the *Islamophobic Holy* Roman Empire began to disintegrate as a result of: Muslim inroads from the South, weak management by his son and infighting by his grandchildren. The Empire eventually divided into three kingdoms from which emerged France, Germany and Italy.

After the collapse of the *Holy* Roman Empire, there was a loss of confidence in the Frankish kings. Islamophobia then moved northwards to Scandinavia. A monk called Anskar (801-865 CE) born in Amiens, France and known as the *Apostle of the North* moved to Germany and in 826 CE to Denmark, where he christened the king and 400 of his subjects. Anskar then went to Sweden, where he built the first Christian church in Scandinavia, at the Viking centre of Birka, near modern Stockholm. On his return to Germany in 832 CE, Anskar was made bishop of Hamburg, with responsibility for all of Scandinavia, and in 848 CE the Pope appointed him Archbishop of Bremen. Back in Denmark in 854 CE he converted Erik – the king of Jutland.

After Anskar's death, Denmark and Sweden reverted back to paganism but this would not save the Muslims. Vikings flooded outwards from Scandinavia in every direction, raiding, colonising and establishing bases in the British Isles, Northern France and Northern Germany. Further South, Vikings fleets raided the Iberian Peninsula, and struck deep into the Mediterranean, passing through the Gibraltar Straits and attacking Muslims on the Balearic Island. Whilst they assimilated with the local population that they colonised, the Vikings expelled Muslims from the Mediterranean.

The Vikings also attacked North Africa and fought the Umayyad Emirate of Cordoba. They took Lisbon virtually unopposed; after sacking Cadiz and Medina Sidonia, they sailed up the River Guadalquivir and captured Seville. From there, they raided the surrounding countryside until, five weeks later, they were heavily defeated by a Muslim army: the Muslims destroyed 30 ships, killed 1000 men and taken 400 prisoners. The Vikings were no match for the powerful, well organised and highly motivated Emirate. In the East, they sailed down the rivers of Russia to cross the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea to attack the Abassid Caliphate.

At the turn of the last Millennium, Europe christianised almost at once including Scandinavia, northern Spain, Russia and the Balkans[23]; and by the end of the First Christian Millennium, the Church owned half of western Europe. The Church then planned the **Crusades**, but to fight Muslims, the Vatican needed an immense amount of resources. England was a wealthy and flourishing kingdom and its throne a rich temptation. English kings were powerful enough to gather substantial amounts of silver through taxation of the wool trade. That silver was a sign of England's wealth and its coinage was the most stable in Europe. England had been able to mint its own coinage controlled from the centre; king Offa of Merica had created England's first proper penny coinage. With such resources and with the means for a ruler to tap them, England was one of the *greatest prizes* in Northwest Europe.,.

The Church organised Normandy to extract England's wealth to fight Muslims, as Islam threatened its very existence, centuries before Martin Luther.

Preparing for the Crusades

The most important long-term consequence of the Viking involvement in France was the establishment of the duchy of Normandy. Normandy's impact to the history of England, France and Italy can hardly be understated.[27]

In 911 CE, a Dane / Norwegian Viking called Rollo settled and established a duchy in the Northern fringe of France i.e. a safe distance from Muslims who were in the South (southern France and the Iberian Peninsula). This state became known as Normandy, the leading feudal principality of the following century. Initially Rollo's territory seems to have been confined to an area no more than thirty miles in diameter in the Seine valley above Rouen, centring around Les Andeleys, where the castle of Richard the Lion-heart stands today.

Conveniently, Rollo readily adopted Christianity, accepting baptism at the hands of the Archbishop of Rouen[32]; and acting as guard for the Franks. He established a line of hereditary counts called the Dukes of Normandy. Normandy developed to become the most powerful of the Frankish principalities in France and over time it acquired French characteristics; though the Duchy of Normandy was a mixture of Roman, Carolingian, Frankish and

Scandinavian elements, with contributions from Italians. This blend of cultures created an immensely powerful religious, political and military entity based on feudalism, in eleventh century Normandy.

The Church played a major role in creating Normandy which became a centre for militant Christianity in Europe. Under clerical supervision, the crop-haired Normans prepared for extensive military campaigns by investing time and money in training and equipping their army; heavily equipped and clad in chain mail. They bought and bred war-horses and learned to fight from their saddles with swords and lances; equipping their horses with stirrups, making it harder to unseat their riders. They also became masters of the art of digging fortifications, motte and castles. They gained experience, prestige and wealth in the feudal wars of France until by the middle of the eleventh century they had become the most formidable professional and best-armed heavy cavalry in northern Europe.[3,25,32]

Between 980 and 1030 CE a feudal revolution took place in France where the Church legitimised Christian militants into a cohesive and organised body – the knights. Knighthood became a kind of class-based corporation, to which new members were admitted after a ritual requiring the knight-to-be keeping vigil all through the night with his arms on the alter in front of him. He then took a purifying bath, heard Mass and had his spurs put on him. There followed the dubbing with a sword and a formal sermon in which the knight's weapons were blessed with *holy* water. Another method of initiation was entirely

clerical and involved the reading of a service, *Benedictio Novi Militis*.

A knight had to believe in and be obedient to the teachings of the Church; he had to defend and love his country and be merciless to the *infidel*. It became the knight's duty to defend the Church and fight to the death against the *infidel*. One has only to read of the violence, greed and lust of the Middle Ages to realise that this code was often 'more honour'd in the breach than the observance'. When Pope Urban 2nd launched the First Crusades, he chastised the knights present for their behaviour: '*You oppressors of orphans, you robbers of widows, you homicides, you blasphemers, you plunderers of others' rights…if you want to take counsel for your souls you must either cast off as quickly as possible the belt of this sort of knighthood or go forward boldly as knights of Christ…*'[5]. Not surprisingly, these knights were known as the *Soldiers of Hell*[21].

The aggression and violence of the knights that characterised daily life in the Middle Ages was then channelled into the *Reconquista* of the Iberian Peninsula and the Crusades[25]. Having adopted Christianity, these barbarian warriors were anxious to show themselves as worthy patrons – and in return to make the most of the power offered them by the Church. Thus the warriors founded new churches across their newly acquired territories i.e. they endowed the Church with land from the estates that they had appropriated as conquerors.[29]

The Normans were a race inured to war and could hardly live without it, fierce in attacking enemies, and when force failed, always ready to use guile or to corrupt by bribery[29].

They first colonised territory from Muslims in the Mediterranean one thousand miles away[3]. In 1060 CE the Normans retook Sicily from the Muslims who had held it since 827 CE. The Normans played a part in the early stages of the *Reconquista* of the Iberian Peninsula, appearing at the siege of Barbastro in 1064 CE[25] i.e. two years before the Norman Crusade of England.

In Normandy, the Church established centres of education and supplied kings, princes, dukes, etc with able men to run government. Afterall, the clergy formed a highly educated elite in Europe. They studied Latin grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, music, geometry, astronomy, physics and theology – which they regarded as the queen of sciences. Pope Sylvester 2nd (945-1003 CE) – the first French Pope was noted for his scholarly achievements and scientific learning. He wrote treatises on mathematical, philosophical and physical subjects and sanctioned the use of Arabic numerals in Western Europe i.e. 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 replaced the impractical Roman numerals: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X. The concept of 0 i.e. zero did not exist in the Roman numbering system.

Crusading Clerics

During the first half of the eleventh century the Norman Church gained a European-wide reputation for scholarship, capable of attracting other influential recruits such as scholars and clerics from throughout Europe and into Normandy along with soldiers[33]. The new Church foundations in Normandy became centres of prestige, wealth, learning and spiritual excellence, and established a direct link with the great monasteries of Burgundy,

northern Italy and Rome. Pupils from many countries were attracted there by its reputation for learning[33]. Medicine was studied and practised, music and poetry cultivated and architecture revolutionised; new cathedrals and monastic churches built[7].

The most significant recruit was an Italian ecclesiastic and scholar called Lanfranc (circa 1005-89 CE) – a Benedictine monk[34]. He was born of a noble family and would prove more important to the intellectual life of the times than any ruler[4]. He was regarded as a magnificent scholar[7]; a man of impressive learning[7]; Europe's leading scholar[26]; with talents for diplomacy, administration and politics[3].

After studying and practising civil law in Pavia, Lanfranc went to Normandy, where he established a school at Avranches in 1039 CE. He taught there until 1042 CE, when he entered the Benedictine monastery at Bec, near Rouen. In 1045 CE, Lanfranc became its prior. There he founded a school that became known throughout Europe.[39]

Lanfranc transformed an abbey at Bec from relative obscurity into one of the most famous monasteries in Europe. According to the historian Orderic Vitalis, almost all the monks at Bec were philosophers[26]. Bec would produce some notable clerics; one would become Pope and another three would become leading churchmen of England after the Norman Crusade of England in 1066 CE. They included:

- Lanfranc – ecclesiastical counsellor to the illiterate Duke William of Normandy. He became the first

Norman archbishop of Canterbury after the Norman Crusade of England.

- Anselm of Lucca who later became Pope Alexander 2nd. This Pope granted indulgences to Spanish Christians to fight Muslims; sanctioning a crusade by the northern princes of the Iberian Peninsula. He also sent a legate called Hugo Candidus to the Iberian Peninsula to persuade *Spanish* Christians to give up the Islamic customs that they had adopted[26]. In addition, this Pope gave papal sanction to Duke William of Normandy to invade England[4].

- Anselm of Aosta, a formidable intellectual, theologian and philosopher of his age, who also become archbishop of Canterbury (after 1089 CE)[33].

- Gandulf – a warrior churchman and later bishop of Rochester. He was the architect responsible for the Tower of London to overawe London. The Tower was amongst the largest structures of its kind in medieval Europe: 85ft high with 15ft thick base[33]; and a place of misery for most Englishmen[4]. He had a reputation as a military architect[31].

While at Bec, Lanfranc met Duke William of Normandy. Immediately they were attracted to one another and developed an intimate friendship to the eventual advantage of both[4]. William formed his only deep and lasting friendship with Lanfranc[3]. William venerated Lanfranc like a father, respected him like a master, cherished him as the equal of a brother or son[7]. Lanfranc became counsellor to the illiterate William and acted as William's ecclesiastical agent in developing and strengthening the episcopacy and

forging it as a major tool of government. By appointing William's nominees, such as his half-brother (same mother / different father), Odo as bishop of Bayeux in 1049 CE, Lanfranc was able to guarantee the allegiance of the Church to William and most importantly to his military campaigns.[33]

Odo was made a bishop at the age of nineteen. He was a warrior bishop *par excellence*[4]; more of a soldier than a churchman; his appointment by William was a piece of flagrant nepotism[7]. He was a master of shady politics – an unprincipled man, and the most militant of churchmen[4]. As one of William's most trusted magnates[4], Bishop Odo provided William with one hundred ships to invade England[33]. Odo even aspired to become Pope raising an army to go to Rome in 1082 CE[33]. Fortunately for Muslims, he died at Palermo, on his way to the First Crusade in 1097 CE[4].

On a cold October morning in 1066 CE, the British Isles would be dragged into the brutish world of the *Normans* and forced European integration. Europe at the time was under the despotic rule of the Popes of Rome, as they sought to transform European society into a hotbed of militant Christianity in readiness for the forthcoming Crusades against Islam and Muslims.

William the Bastard

William (*Guilliame*) the Conqueror (b.1028, d.1087 CE) was a nickname[4]. He was known to his contemporaries as

William *the Bastard* because he was the illegitimate son of a tanner's daughter. Although William was not the first of the dukes of Normandy to be illegitimate, the abusive and humiliating title of bastard stuck to him all his life. Anyway, illegitimacy and fornication was commonplace in Christian Europe despite the moral high ground claimed by the Crusaders e.g. the archbishop Robert of Rouen had three children by his mistress and most Norman dukes had illegitimate children. In fact most bishops were neither particularly pious nor chaste.[7]

William's father was Robert 1st – *The Devil* – the Duke of Normandy. Robert 1st never married and was noted for his commitment to violence and ruthless subjugation. William became the Duke of Normandy at the age of eight, when his father died of unknown causes in Anatolia, whilst returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem[4].

William's rise to power was with the backing of the Church via his great uncle Robert – the archbishop of Rouen, who offered strong protection[4]. However his early years at court was a nest of vipers; his guardians nearly all perished by murder or poisoning. William spent most of his life in violence and war[32]. During his reign, he built up, trained and strengthened his military resources resulting in the most able army in Europe[33].

William was an enthusiastic founder of churches and monasteries[31]. He dedicated a considerable part of his busy life to ecclesiastical affairs[7]. His second daughter, Adeliza became a nun, as did his third daughter, Cecily, who was appointed Abbess of Holy Trinity, Caen[7]. Another daughter, Adela married Count Stephen of Blois in 1080

CE. Adela reacted favourably to the First Crusade by encouraging her husband to go to the Holy Land. However, Stephen ran away during the siege of Antioch in 1098 CE. Fearing the mighty Emir of Mosul, Stephen abandoned camp taking with him a considerable number of Frenchmen. This was bad timing. A few hours after deserting, the Crusaders captured Antioch.[21]

William was surpassingly harsh, ruthless and unlovable, a man who never showed emotion in his life save on two occasions : his coronation at Westminster Abbey in 1066 CE when he trembled violently; and his deathbed when he shed tears[32].

1066: Norman Crusade of the British Isles

In the distorted secular version of history, people are taught that the Norman Conquest of England of 1066 was an accident; or the result of a disputed succession to the English throne. In fact, it was a Crusade in which one Christian nation attacked another for its wealth, with the blessing of the papacy.

One his death bed, the king of England, Edward the Confessor (1042-66 CE) confirmed that his brother-in-law, Harold – the earl of Wessex should succeed him. As the old king lay dying, he designated Earl Harold as his successor; the Bayeux Tapestry depicts the scene without comment. Edward was childless because he practised celibacy (unlike the clergy). The selection was confirmed by Witan, the council of Anglo-Saxon chiefs. However, William – the Duke of Normandy and cousin of Edward the Confessor,

claimed that he was the legitimate heir to the English throne.

Meanwhile, the Vatican claimed that: Harold failed to send a levy (the *Peter's Pence*) to Rome; England had descended into a near barbarous condition; and only by the appointment of a king who was a god-fearing dutiful son to the Pope, would England be restored into the brotherhood of the Christian world. Harold was ex-communicated and declared an *infidel*. The charges were unreasonable and as Harold's main supporter, the archbishop of Canterbury was also ex-communicated, it was impossible for Harold to defend himself against the papal allegations.

William's ecclesiastical adviser, Lanfranc – went to Rome to gain papal support for an invasion of England. Pope Alexander 2nd (r. 1061-73 CE) with Cardinal (archdeacon) Hildebrand at his elbow gave his blessing to William, to invade England and install himself as king, providing that William submit England as a fief to Rome.[45]

The papal sanction and encouragement for the piratical adventure included giving a specially consecrated banner for a religious crusade and a holy relic – one of St. Peter's hairs[4]. Copies of the papal blessing were made and sent from Bec Abbey to all those heads of state who wished to join William in his crusade[45]. The prospect of laying hands on England's wealth, its land and its silver, attracted thousands of soldiers from all over northern France and Flanders, to the papal banner[41].

Cardinal Hilderbrand (born ~1020 CE) arranged the presentation of the papal banner to Duke William[4].

Hilderbrand was interested in establishing a massive temporal power base not only in Italy but over the Alps and beyond, using newly seized fiefs established by Norman mercenaries (priest-knights)[45].

Hilderbrand had connections with the Pierleoni family of Rome, Jews who had embraced the Catholic faith. There is reason to believe that he may have been related to them, and so partly of Jewish origin himself.[4] He had a rigid religious background while he served as monk, probably at Cluny, where he generated new reform ideals…he returned to Rome with Pope Leo 9th, and from that time worked in service of the papacy. He became the real power behind the throne under five popes. During the reign of Pope Nicholas 2nd, Hildebrand continued as one of the principal manipulators of the power structure.[4,39].

Hilderbrand was known as a magician and it is said that he was expert at *shaking lightening out of his sleeve*[2]. When Hilderbrand became Pope (as Pope Gregory 7th from 1073 to 1085 CE), he issued a document called the *Dictatus papae* in 1075 CE defining the role of the Church and Pope in Europe. This included: the Roman Church was founded by God alone and princes should kiss the feet of no one but the Pope; the Church of Rome has never been mistaken, nor will it ever be, as is written in the Holy Scriptures and many other lies and comical statements[25].
German anti-Semitism has its origins with Hilderbrand, who forced the Emperor of Germany, Henry 4th to kiss his feet in 1077 CE, over a dispute in which he attempted to establish primacy of the Vatican over European monarchs and states. However, this led to a civil war and political retardation of Germany. As Pope, Hilderbrand expected

William the Conqueror do fealty to him for his English kingdom[7]. Hilderbrand was canonised as a saint by the Vatican[47]. Pope Gregory 7th was shortly followed by Pope Urban 2nd.[21]

In 1066 CE, William accompanied by the bishops of Coutances and Bayeux, invaded and defeated Harold 2nd – king of the Anglo-Saxons, at the Battle of Hastings (in Sussex)[7]. This was an astonishing defeat considering that: Normandy was a small duchy on the Northern fringe of France, Britain was Europe's oldest kingdom[32]; and England's wealth and military resources were greater than those of Normandy[41].

It is said that Harold was hit in the eye during the Battle of Hastings. This is not true, nor does the Bayeux Tapestry show him being hit in the eye[42]. He was attacked by four Norman knights; one stabbed him in the chest, another decapitated him, a third disembowelled him, and the last cut off his leg at the thigh and carried it away. One of the Normans, crazy with bloodlust, cut off Harold's genitalia.[32] Harold was found dead lying naked and mutilated[3]. His body or rather, its pieces, were identified by his mistress. Both his brothers, Earls Leofwine and Gyrth were also killed; the Bayeux Tapestry shows Norman knights penetrating the English defence and cutting down both of the earls[43].

As Charlemagne had often done, William erected a cairn of stones, to commemorate the battle[32]. Following an arrangement between the Pope and William in about 1070 CE, an abbey was constructed at the battle site[33]; with the

high alter of the abbey erected on the spot where Harold had been killed[32].

It was said that the French had possession of the place of slaughter, as God granted them because of the nation's sins[32]. The Normans felt that God was on their side[8].

The bishop of Bayeux (William's half-brother), Odo who later became the Earl of Kent, gave the order for the famous Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Battle of Hastings – a masterpiece of propaganda, even by modern standards[7]. However, it contains two scenes of nudity and lewdness and Odo swinging a mace at a Saxon with wicked intensity battering his enemies senseless[3]. The abstruse reasoning that permeates Christianity would say that the bishop was not guilty of breaking the commandment *Thou shalt not kill* as Odo used a wooden weapon that could not shed blood but strike a blow instead[4].

The Bayeux Tapestry confirms that the Church had created an environment in which the conquest of England was perceived as a ***holy war***, blessed by the papacy in Rome. Throughout the Tapestry, William is portrayed holding the papal banner as confirmation that this was a just and ***holy war***.[33] Papal approval served to enhance William[3].

The Norman Subjugation of England

The Norman colonisation of England was a portracted process which was essentially ecclesiastical, aristocratic and mercantile in nature[33]. On Christmas Day 1066,

William was proclaimed king of England in Westminster Abbey, anointed with *holy* oil by influential prelates such as the archbishop of York and the bishop of Worcester[7],. Since this crowning, Westminster Abbey has been the setting for the coronation of nearly every king and queen of England. With the *help* of the Norman clergy, the English were taught that the king's authority came directly from God. The coronation service in which the English monarch is surrounded by archbishops and bishops is a superstitious ritual that continues to this very day[31].

It took another five years before 10,000 Normans living like an army of occupation safely in castles eventually subdued the English population of one or two million. They built vast stone castles financed by Jews[3], as focal points for military power and local government, to maintain and extend the conquest and overawe the subject population. Castles were built at Warwick, Nottingham, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Exeter, Colchester, Dover and Winchester. At least 500 castles were built throughout England and Wales by 1100[9]. In England alone, it has been estimated, the Normans built nearly a thousand castles; there were well over three hundred in Wales; in Ireland Norman mottes and baileys controlled the rich lands such as Tipperary[8].

The most famous castle was the four storeys-high Tower of London to overawe London. The Tower of London took twenty years to build and has been a fortress, royal residence, prison, place of execution, armoury and now, home to the crown jewels and *loot* stolen from African and Asian victims of British Imperialism, but to most Englishmen the Tower was a place of misery. The Tower

was built by a warlike churchman, Gandulf – the Bishop of Rochester, who had a reputation as a military architect by building a fortress-like tower beside his cathedral.[31]

The Normans built a new castle in the North East to fight the Scots. This castle grew into the city of Newcastle (New Castle). The Normans also constructed an astonishing number of massive churches, cathedrals and abbeys such as Peterborough and Durham, commanded by harsh, uncompromising prelates[31].

Such Cathedrals as Durham and Ely with their imposing message of dominance may be taken as symbols of imperialism. Castles, cathedrals and monasteries formed part of a single colonial complex.[8]

William conquered by fire and sword and ruled by fear and terror. The English were crushed, imprisoned, disinherited, banished and scattered beyond the limits of their own country. The petty lords who guarded the newly built castles oppressed all the inhabitants with soldiers looting and raping. Bishop Odo oppressed the unhappy English and things went from bad to worse. The new rulers were so swollen with pride that they refused to listen to reasonable complaints from the English or to give them impartial justice.[7] Odo was a tough feudal lord who led punitive military expeditions against the English who rebelled against Norman rule. He also accumulated vast wealth by extortion and robbery[42].

The Norman occupation was characterised by military suppression and plunder, during which Norman magnates and their principal tenants took over the greater part of

the English landed estates. This was followed by a phase of colonisation and exploitation, marked by large-scale donations to religious houses in Normandy. During this phase much transportable wealth and many works of art and literature were taken across the Channel to Normandy. The Church in Normandy was enriched by the wealth seized from England. The twin abbeys at Caen were largely paid for out of English money and so were the extensions to the cathedral at Bayeux; bishop Odo enhanced his bishopric at Bayeux with spoils lifted from England. English coinage was melted down and re-minted in Normandy[31]. For hundreds of years the resources of a fertile and prospering land were diverted to fulfil impossible political ambitions on the other side of the Channel.[7]

Not only was the English throne taken by force but was also defended by force. Any opposition to Norman rule was brutally crushed[31]. William inflicted terrible vengeance with no mercy and ruthless severity. Those areas such as the Midlands and the North, where the English revolted in 1069-70 CE, were subjected to total destruction, devastation, and unparalleled ferocity, creating conditions of starvation and famine[32].

'Harrying' involved taking hostages and mass deportations, burning and looting; the littering of highways with putrefying corpses and the transference of the vacated lands to the king's supporters – a tactic employed in mainland Europe since the time of Charlemagne33.

'Harrying of the North' resulted in a large expanse of devastated land in the Midlands and the North[29]. In these

areas, land values fell by as much as two-thirds as agricultural land was systematically laid to waste with fire and sword. William ordered corn, cattle and implements of husbandry to be collected in heaps and burned.[7] In the Domesday Book, such land was recorded as '*waste*' i.e. land that had gone out of cultivation principally as a result of deliberate devastation[33]. William's soldiers destroyed every town, village and house between York and Durham, slaughtering every human being that they could find[3]. William consciously set out to devastate old earldoms like Mercia so that they could never again become centres of resistance to his supremacy[7].

One chronicler wrote that the city of York and the whole district around it was destroyed by the French with the sword, famine and flames. Another wrote that so many were killed that there was nobody left to bury them, that there was no village inhabited between York and Durham and that the land remained uncultivated for nine years.[33]

The Normans set aside enormous tracts of land for themselves resulting in famine. Compelled by hunger, people were forced to eat human flesh, and that of horses, dogs and cats, and whatever was repulsive to notions of civilisations. The famine was created by man not by nature affecting innocent and unarmed people who died in abject misery[7]. This was no ordinary warfare. There is much evidence for a widespread emigration of Englishmen into other countries, into Denmark, into Scotland and, most remarkably of all, to Greece and the Byzantium empire where there is good contemporary evidence that large numbers of Englishmen took service with the emperor in

Constantinople in the generation following the Norman Conquest[32].
Some people went as far as to sell themselves into perpetual slavery, provided only they could support a miserable existence[4]. However Archbishop Anselm, at the London Council of 1102 CE, denounced the practice of selling Englishmen as *brute beasts*; his contemporary, Bishop Wulfstan preached against the practice of selling English slaves from Bristol to Ireland. But the Church remained a slaver owner.

Women

In Anglo-Saxon England, women had a high status and had always been able to own and dispose of land[32]. Under the Normans, the status of women declined ending the condition of rough equality that existed between men and women in Anglo-Saxon times[7].

The inferior position of women, stipulated by St. Paul, was accepted without question, an attitude which was fostered by St. Augustine and other early fathers of the Church. In early Christian writing, women were falsely regarded as the *devil's gateway* and a *temple built over a sewer*. St. John Chrysotom claimed they were *plegm, blood, bile, rheum and the fluids of digested food*. It was also considered inconceivable that a man might be in love with his wife, however fond he might be for her; some theologians actually stated that passionate love by a man for his own wife was adultery. There was much hostility towards the education of women. Clerics believed that women who had been taught to read and write would

spend their time composing love letters and reading heretical literature. A French noble, Bertrand du Guesclin said '*in women there is no more sense than there is in a sheep*', a sentiment that found support in England, where one visitor noted that '*the working of a woman's wit is considered of small account*'.[34]

In direct contrast the Last Prophet ε of Islam said in his Last Sermon that women had the right to be fed and clothed in kindness and to be treated well for they are partners and committed helpers.

French Language

No other conquest in European history has had such disastrous consequences for the defeated. The English became an oppressed majority in their own country; 12,000 foreigners ruled 1.5 to 2 million English[6]. England had become a colony of a French principality – Normandy where the Duke of Normandy paid homage to the king of France and the king of France owed allegiance to the Pope. For over two hundred years thereafter, Norman kings were likely to spend less time in England than elsewhere i.e. England was considered subordinate territory compared to French dukedoms[6].

William never bothered to learn the language of his new kingdom, French became the new language of the court and remained so until the fifteenth century[29]. For the next 300 years, monarchs of England spoke their native tongue i.e. French. As a result, legal terms such as *embezzle*, *judge*, *jury*, *larceny*, *lease* and *perjury* were introduced into the British Isles[33]. The following table shows some of the

French words that were introduced into the English languages[8]:

Category French words in the English Language

Administration, Law Crown, Parliament (from the word *parler* – to speak), reign, royal, state, city, council, court, evidence, fine, fraud, gaol, prison. Also, embezzle, judge, jury, larceny, lease and perjury[33].

Dress Apron, bonnet, boot, brooch, chain, collar, jacket, jewel, lace, ornament, petticoat

Family Aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, uncle

Food Beef, mutton, partridge, pheasant, pigeon, poultry, sugar, tripe, veal, dinner, feast, supper, date, fig, grape, lemon, orange, raisin, flour, oil

Home / Household Chamber, pantry, blanket, curtain, cushion, quilt, towel, chair, dresser, wardrobe

Military Army, battle, guard, navy, peace, soldier, spy (also military ranks e.g. Captain, Lieutenant)

Ranks Clerk, duke, farmer, master, mistress, prince, servant, sir

Religion Abbey, convent, lesson, mercy, parson, pity, prayer, preacher, saint, sermon, vicar

Names William (Guilliame?), Robert and Richard

Financial Sterling which comes from the Norman French word '*esterlin*', meaning 'little star', a symbol found on pennies minted in Normandy

Miscellaneous dozen, flower, grease, hour, litter, more, pasture, people, person, pocket, quarry, quart, quarter, rein, second, squirrel, stallion, stranger, tailor, tune

Of the few educated Englishmen that existed, were trilingual, knowing his mother tongue, some Latin and fluent in French[51]. Latin and French became the

languages of the upper classes[7]. Under king Henry 3rd (Richard the Lion-heart's nephew), French became the language of written law and under Crusader king, Edward 1st, the language of the courts[8]. Scholars and clerics opted for Latin – it was the international language of the Church, and was also the language of officialdom[34].

What is normally spoken of as *English* political history during the Middle Ages on events such as the murder of Thomas Becket, Magna Carta, etc relates almost exclusively to the French-speaking elites[8].

Much of the vernacular literature of Anglo-Saxon England was destroyed and the English language was relegated to the underworld of the lower classes[29]. Anglo-Saxons came to occupy second-class status[8]. To speak a language like English could be a mark of bondage; Lanfranc – the Norman archbishop of Canterbury, referred when writing to Pope Alexander 2nd to his own ignorance of the language of *barbarous peoples*[8].

It would be another 300 years before Anglo-Saxons began thinking themselves as English again[31]. English emerged as a socially acceptable medium during the fifteenth century when it became the language of the trading community; it was the rise of London, Norwich, Bristol and other towns which brought about the elevated social status of English[8]. In the Tudor age, the English playwright (plagiarist) William Shakespeare wrote in his play, *Henry 5th* in 3.5: *Normans, but bastard Normans, Normans bastards!*[4].

The Norman Church in Britain

The importance of the Church was paramount following the Norman Crusade of 1066. Churchmen, controlled from Rome entered British politics with enthusiasm[34]. Thus the Norman Crusade saw a radical transformation of the British Isles into militant Christian State. This was accomplished by completely reorganising the Saxon Church resulting in far greater papal involvement than had been the case previously[33].

Many English churches were taken over by Norman or French monasteries; over twenty Norman monasteries were recorded as possessing English manors by 1086 CE. Monastic houses with a French affiliation were established at Chester, Tewkesbury and Evesham. The abbot of Glastonbury in the early twelfth century was the Norman Henry of Blois. Evesham also had a Norman abbot.[8]

French clerics began to occupy to the highest positions in England to *reform* the English Church. One by one English churchmen were removed. Remigius from Fecamp was made Bishop of Dorchester in 1067 CE; in 1070 CE Thomas from Bayeux, became the archbishop of York, and Walkelin, the Bishop of Winchester. In the same year William secured papal support from Pope Alexander 2nd for other major ecclesiastical changes and Stigand – the English archbishop of Canterbury and five other English bishops were removed.[33] Stigand was excommunicated by no less than five Popes[7].

Approaching seventy years of age, Lanfranc – counsellor and ecclesiastical agent to the illiterate William went to England, where, in 1070 CE, he became the new archbishop of Canterbury[4]. Lanfranc was a first-class administrator and the critical figure in the reform of the Church in the British Isles, just as he had been in reforming the Norman Church[7]. He insisted on the control of the whole English Church, obtaining written promises of obedience from each new consecrated bishop[33]. Lanfranc initiated a vigorous program of reorganisation of the English Church remodelling them according Norman standards to produce a highly organised and hierarchical structure. Lanfranc strengthened his own position by subordinating the see of York to the see of Canterbury. The Scottish Church was, with papal approval, put under the archbishop of York and new bishoprics of the Anglo-Norman type were created in Wales and Ireland resulting in the establishment of a sort of patriarchate over the British Isles.

Lanfranc supported William's policy of deposing English bishops; thereafter no Englishman was appointed to either bishopric or abbey[51]; only Norman compatriots and a few other Continentals[53]. By 1070 CE, nearly all the bishops both in England and in Normandy were friends or relations of William[7]. William never allowed Englishmen to be promoted abbots[7].

By 1086 CE, of the fifteen diocesan bishops, eleven were Norman. So complete was the foreign take-over of the Church that William of Malmesbury, writing fifty years after the Conquest, claimed that *England had become a residence of foreigners and the property of aliens. At the*

present time there is no English earl nor bishop nor abbot; strangers all they prey upon the riches and vitals of England[33].

The traditional learning and liturgy of the English church was treated with contempt by clerics educated in the schools of Europe[41]. By about 1200 CE almost every Anglo-Saxon cathedral and abbey had been demolished and replaced by Norman ones – a visible sign of the Norman regime. As a result no great Anglo-Saxon church has survived to modern times[29].

The Church also had a damaging effect on morality in society. Hypocrisy was rife amongst the clergy. Some parishes felt it advisable to force their priests to marry, in order to protect the local wives and daughters. The vicar of Brent Eleigh was described as a *common ravisher of wives and virgins*. Although figures are not available for Britain, statistics for the composition of the clientele of a brothel at Dijon showed that 20% were clerics, and the situation was probably little different in England. Many priests got round their problems by employing 'housekeepers'. During the twelfth century, unnatural / same-sex relationships flourished in many monasteries, but as penalties became stricter it was kept more under wraps. Lesbianism was also common in nunneries.[34]

The penalty for the crime included a whole year's penance, with a further two years for nuns who had used sexual

aids. Monks who used aids had a mere forty days' penance. One nun, Margaret Wavere, who was the prioress of Catesby was charged not only with pawning church silver, but with allowing frequent visits from her lover, a priest called William Taylour. The Church was all in favour of saving *fallen women*, and one nunnery was entirely composed of repentant or retired prostitutes – the Order of the Repentant Sisters of St. Catherine. Religious demands upon such nuns were not onerous – a few *Hail Marys* and *Our Fathers* usually sufficed, with confession once a month.[34]

Institutionalised Feudalism

The new Norman regime introduced feudalism (class structure and elitism) into the British Isles in which society was divided into three estates: priests, warriors (knights – later Crusading knights) and peasants. During the two centuries that followed the Norman Crusade of England, the feudal elite controlled resources through the related institutions of Church, castle and borough.[8]

The Norman Crusade of England was followed by major re-ordering of English society modelled on the rigid feudal lines of the Continent for raising funds for warfare and holding conquered territory. Feudalism originated with the Franks e.g. Charles Martel to counter the spread of Islam into Europe in the 8th, 9th and 10th Christian century[39]. Feudalism in England after 1066 involved significant curtailment of individual liberty[30] and the imposition of alien kings and landlords[31]. By 1086, there were only two surviving English lords of any account (Thurkill of Arden

and Colswein of Lincoln). More than 4,000 indigenous landowners were replaced by a group of less than 200 Norman barons[51].

The greatest baron of all was Robert of Mortain, another half-brother of Duke William, who had holdings in nineteen counties[54]. The vast majority of the population became the property of the gentry, so that the peasants paid taxes to their feudal lords (just like the ones who, today sit in the House of lords as unelected representatives of the Mother of Parliamentary *Democrazy*); the feudal lords paid taxes to the king; and the king paid an annual tribute to the Church. This tribute was called the *Peter's Pence* – an annual tribute by the kingdom to the Papacy[7]. This was the beginning of British economic integration with Continental Europe, run by an oppressive and unaccountable institution – the Papacy.

The feudal system was designed to finance and support the institution of knight service that was introduced from Normandy. This was a powerful religious-military organisation in which warrior monks of the Templars, Hospitallars, Teutonic knights were the cutting edge of extreme militant Christianity. In addition to their fanaticism, they drew on enormous financial resources of the peasants of the feudal system and the services of Englishmen to fight in France and in the Crusades. During the Crusades, special Orders of fraternities of knights were created, uniting the militant warriors in a common purpose. Instead of fighting each other, they fought a common enemy – the *infidel*. The first of these Orders were known as the Hospitallers which was founded by a

Benedictine monk, Gerard. As early as 1113 CE, only forty-seven years after the Norman Crusade of Britain, Pope Paschall 2nd approved the Order and his approval was solemnly confirmed by a Bull of Pope Calixtus 2nd six years later. The Hospitallers founded a priory in England in 1154 CE; the Prior was regularly summoned to sit in the House of Lords. The Order acquired much property in England. One has only to consider how many streets in London are called St John Street, to appreciate the landed wealth of the Order, for, in most cases, the Order owned property in these areas.[35]

Meanwhile, the largest proportion of the population were known by a variety of different names, such as *villein*, *serf*, *native*, *bondman* and *peasant*. The status of many English peasants declined as their property was destroyed and livestock pillaged. They also lost their privileges and subject to all sorts of burdens imposed upon them by feudal lords.[7]

Large estates in the West of the country lent themselves to slavery, and in Devon as many as 28 per cent of the population on the estates of William's wife were slaves in 1086 CE. The Domesday Book records that up to 12 per cent of the population in 1086 CE were slaves. The principal characteristics of a freeman, the right to bear arms and the right to testify on oath in public courts, also diminished in status under Norman feudalism.[33]
The local Church, might also demand ten per cent of a peasant's produce – one parish priest in 14th century England even demanded the tenth son of a local *villein* as *tithe*. Modern research is uncovering a whole new class of landless people who barely entered the records of the

feudal system at all. Feudal society was organised principally for the benefit of the few at the top of the *pyramid.*[37]

By the end of the twelfth century the various kingdoms and provinces of the British Isles which had been independent entities were ruled by an aristocracy, which in its turn was linked by ties of vassalage to a single monarch. Even the king of Scotland with large estates in Central England was in measure incorporated within the feudal system.[8]

Feudalism has survived to this day though it is heavily disguised as the economy and society has become more complex. The monarchy is subsidised by the public to the tune of millions of pounds. Before the demise of the royal yacht, the monarchy was costing the taxpayer £100m per annum of which £20-25m was for security alone i.e. double the cost of all the other European royal families put together.

The Church of England and the monarchy (Crown Estates) remain the two largest landowners in Britain. On 27th January 2000, an article by Nicholas Timmins on page 7 of the London Financial Times stated that though the past century has been a century of dispossession for the aristocracy, the bottom half of the British population hold just 7 per cent of marketable wealth, defined as assets which can be valued and sold. The top 1 per cent of the British population hold almost 20 per cent of wealth. The top quarter holds 82 per cent of wealth, a figure that has risen from 73 per cent 20 years ago. The share of marketable wealth, less houses, held by the bottom half of

the population has halved since 1976 – down from 12 to 6 per cent. Feudalism permeates and retards Britain and many of its institutions today.

Academia

Elite fee-paying public schools and Oxbridge graduates who end up in senior positions in government, military, industry, media, etc. The Oxbridge MA is obtained automatically, seven years after graduating with a BA. In other universities, students have to work for a MA!

In an article on page 19 of the London *Financial Times* (1999) titled, 'Low marks for educational equality', Michael Prowse stated: 'About 90 of the top 100 schools are fee-paying even though they educate only 7 per cent of the population. The inequalities in British secondary education have few parallels in other advanced democracies. For instance, private schools account for about half of entrants to Oxford and Cambridge, in spite of their small market share. Also surveys shows that those educated at the top private schools still command a disproportionate number of the most attractive jobs in privileged domains such as law, medicine, the City and the higher reaches of the civil service. Exclusive private schools reinforce social divisions. Such inequality has increased as the best grammar schools went private.'

Military

Officers and ranks train, dine and sleep separately. When business management guru, John Harvey Smith visited

the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier in the Adriatic Sea during the Bosnian Crusade, he was shocked to discover that it required 1600 personnel just to keep a handful of Harrier jump jets flying around the clock. In addition, there were different canteens catering for the various officer grades!

A devastating effect of this feudal structure in the military was seen in the Great European War (1914-1918) when the indifferent upper-class officers (*donkeys*) sent hundreds of thousands of young men of working-class origin to their deaths on the Western Front; they used them as fodder. Half an entire generation of young men were wiped out with a million killed[17]; and two and a half million wounded, many permanently disabled[51].

Administration

Civil service – the old boys' racist and sexist network

Industry

White & blue-collar workers; management-union conflict; *fat cat bosses*.

Politics

House of Lords for the un-elected clergy, monarchy, aristocracy; and House of Commons for the commoners / the masses / peasants i.e. it is Parliamentary *Democrazy* / Theocracy. The richest woman in the world is the Queen of England, yet British taxpayers continue to pay her about £8 million annually. Old habits die hard.

Honours

The system of honours originated from the units of land that William gave to his trusted followers. These units were called *honours*[7]. Disgraced and depraved traitor, Anthony Blunt was allowed to keep his knighthood.

In some cases, titles and estates were given to buy off hypocrites and collaborators of subject countries, as depicted in the film *Braveheart* – a historical account of England's brutal attempt to colonise its neighbour Scotland, in the thirteenth century. However, in *Braveheart*, Sir William Wallace (played by Mel Gibson) rejected such offers, stating that acceptance would mean **SLAVERY** and that he would not be a ***Judas***.

New recruits to the feudal system are: Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham, Pola Uddin and Waheed Alli – a man guilty of indulging in the same crimes as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah) (*if you want the people of Sodom and Gomorrah as neighbours, vote Labour*).

The latest recruit is a Christian cleric, formerly a Shi'a from Karachi, Pakistan called Michael Nazir Ali – now the bishop of Rochester. However, the use of such house slaves is nothing new – the feudal system was successfully deployed in South Asia by the British Raj, enabling no more than 200,000 British personnel to rule 300 million people in British India, through the appointment of approximately 600 titled local collaborators.

Arts/Media

Lottery money of the working classes funding upper-classes operas; royalty previewing new film releases – *the royal premiere*. Even anti-Establishment or unconventional types are co-opted through honours, for example, Sir Sean Connery, Sir Bob Geldof, Sir Richard Branson.

Sports

Sports follows and reinforces existing social divisions along class lines. Football for the masses; tennis and golf for middle-classes; polo & horses e.g. Ascot for the upper-classes. Royalty present at football & tennis finals. Cricket is played by the English and their neo-colonial subjects.

Christmas

Traditionally, the upper classes i.e. the clergy, monarchy and nobility celebrated Christmas Day on the 25th December. The next day, the lower classes were permitted to celebrate Christmas and they used to exchange Christmas presents in little boxes. Hence, the term *Boxing Day*. The twentieth century saw the introduction of new feudal traditions such as '*Trooping the Colour*'; the Christmas broadcast to the neo-colonies of the Commonwealth by the Governor of the Church of England – the Queen; and the Armistice Day ceremonial. Royal weddings were moved from the privacy of Windsor to the public domain in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.[56]

Financing the Crusades: Taxing the English until Doomsday

In 1085 CE William commissioned a new taxation system at his Christmas Court in Gloucester. A Great Inquisition or Survey of England was carried out in 1086 CE where the extent, value, ownership, wealth and liabilities of everyone in England were listed, for taxation purposes. Not even one ox, or one cow or pig escaped notice, though there were large gaps in the book's coverage of parish churches[33]. It was made law that would be in operation until the end of the world. Till Doomsday – the Day of Judgement, that terrible verdict against which there was no appeal. Thus was born the famous *Domesday* Book, a two-volume book, written in clerical Latin. English translations did not appear until the nineteenth century i.e. English people still do not appreciate the religious nature and purpose of the book.[30]

Muslims should reflect on what the book would be called in Arabic [???]. With the Bible and Quran, *Domesday* Book is one of the three most famous books in the world; all but a handful of the 13,418 places mentioned in the *Domesday* Book are occupied today. However the illiterate William never even read the *Domesday* Book and was only able to sign it with a CROSS[58].

There was a massive redistribution of wealth in England as the new taxation financed the Church and its activities both at home and abroad (*Church and Mammon*)[32]. The Church became one of the richest and most powerful landowners in the country, influencing politics and

government. Bishoprics and abbeys became feudal baronies and most bishops and abbots were tenants-in-chief, establishing sub-tenants on their lands.[34]

By 1086, the Church in England gained an additional 5% of land[45]. Bishops were earls and earls were bishops[30].

Bishops and abbots were great landowners and key figures in central and local administration[51]. The bishop of Worcester founded Stratford. The earls of Chester founded Stockport and Salford. Control of the town of Coventry was disputed between the local feudal and ecclesiastical lords. Under the auspices of the bishop of Norwich, the town of Lynn expanded to be known first as Bishop's Lynn and then late as King's Lynn. At Tavistock, the abbot closely supervised the borough which the abbey had founded: the abbot's steward presided over the borough court, levied a percentage on corn ground at the town mill and collected inheritance dues. Between 1066 and 1130 CE, forty new towns were founded (not including eighteen in Wales). During the period 1191-1230 CE, nearly fifty new towns were planned.[8]

In 1066 CE there were some fifty religious houses in England and perhaps 1,000 monks and nuns. By 1216 there were approximately 700 religious houses and some 13,000 monks, nuns, canons, and canonesses. A century later, the total was nearer 900 religious houses and 17,500 members of religious orders[51]. In 1147 CE there were 13 houses belonging to the French-based Cistercians (reformed Benedictine order). The Cistercians financed their business of property development, sheep farming and wool exports by borrowing from the famous Jewish

moneylender, Aaron of Lincoln[34]. By 1154 CE there were about 40 Cistercian monasteries in England and Wales and the north borderlands. Some 30 Benedictine nunneries were founded mostly in the Midlands and the North[53].

Of the land described in the 35 counties of the *Domesday* Book (90 per cent of the counties / shires survive today), the bishops and abbots held 26 per cent; the king and his family held about 17 per cent; and a dozen or so leading barons together controlled about a quarter of England[30].

William and a handful of magnates who were related to him are estimated to have owned almost half the lands of England. Most of the rich families were related to William.[7] By the time of William's death in 1087 CE it is estimated that only eight per cent of land was still held by the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy[32].

England's wealth ended up overseas and a terrible toll followed the forced integration of the English economy with that of Europe, which William came to regret on his deathbed. He confessed that he had '*subjugated England by slaughter and by persecuting it beyond endurance*'. Almost at his last breadth, he added: '*I have cruelly oppressed my subjects, unjustly disinherited them, and killed large numbers of them by famine and violence. May God forgive me for my sins*'.

William was both the Duke of Normandy in France and the king of England. When he died, his kingdom was split between the two oldest sons. The eldest son, Robert *Curthose* became the new Duke of Normandy. The second

son, Rufus (*the Red* also known as William 2nd) became the new king of England (reigned: 1087-1100 CE).

Robert *Curthose* financed his participation in the First Crusade by mortgaging* Normandy to his younger brother, Rufus for 10,000 marks in 1096 CE[51]; a give-away price considering that it would cost 150,000 marks to pay for Richard the Lion-heart's ransom. Robert met Pope Urban 2nd at Lucca on his way to the Crusade[5]. As Rufus had no money to pay Robert, he resorted to other means of raising the necessary finance. He imposed an insupportable tax throughout the whole of England. Many bishops and abbots came to Rufus's court complaining about the severity of the tax, saying that they could not meet so great a tax without driving away their wretched peasants. The courtiers, with their usual sarcasm, replied: '*Do you not have reliquaries made of gold and silver, full of dead men's bones?*' Realising what the reply meant, the clergy stripped saint's caskets, despoiled crucifixes and melted down chalices, not for the benefit of the poor, but for the king's treasury.[21] He would milk the English dry if he could[29].

The Crusades was a profitable enterprise for the Church – people sold their fiefs and mortgaged their lands to the Church. Indeed the Church did do very nicely out of its role as banker to the Crusades[5].

By repute, Rufus (William 2nd) was not a Christian[7] i.e. he was not a compliant stooge of the Church. It has been suggested that he was an atheist, shocking the clergy with profanities[3]; effeminate and guilty of indulging in unnatural relationships[3,51].

When Lanfranc – the Norman archbishop of Canterbury died in 1089 CE, Rufus delayed naming a successor for four years and helped himself to Church revenues, relying on the ingenious aid of a quick-witted and worldly clerk, Ranulf Flambard, who eventually became bishop of Durham[51]. When Rufus thought he was dying, he appointed Anselm of Aosta, a formidable Italian theologian and philosopher, as the new archbishop of Canterbury in 1093 CE.

However, a dispute arose between Rufus and Anselm over the appointment of Pope Urban 2nd. Anselm had already sworn to obey Urban 2nd and took it for granted that Urban 2nd was the rightful Pope but Rufus disagreed. Under continual harassment from Rufus, Anselm left England in 1097 CE and was forced to spend most of his reign in exile, while Rufus plundered churches and stole their lands[31]. Rufus enjoyed the revenues of three bishoprics and twelve abbeys[41]. As Rufus was a serious impediment to the Crusades, he was killed in suspicious circumstances on 2nd August 1100 CE (just like Dodi and Diana).

In 1154 CE, Henry 2nd – great-grandson of William the Conqueror became the new king of England. Henry 2nd was born in Le Mans (France) and married Eleanor of Acquitaine (France). Eleanor was once married to king Louis 7th of France and had accompanied Louis on the Second Crusade probably because Louis could not trust her to remain chaste while he was away fighting.

The failure of the Second Crusade was attributed to allegations that she committed adultery with her uncle, Raymond of Antioch[40]. Louis divorced her (the Vatican did

permit divorce – note Henry 8th); and she then married Henry 2nd producing four sons; the third son would later be known as Richard 1st or Coeur de Lion or Lion-heart.

In 1171-2 CE, king Henry 2nd invaded Ireland as a Crusade with papal authority, which was granted to him by Pope Adrian 4th in 1155. Adrian 4th was the only English Pope that the Vatican ever had. He came to power in 1154 CE – the same year that Henry 2nd became the king of England.

Ireland's wealth was required to finance the Crusades. Henry 2nd shared out his conquered Irish territories among his leading followers, turning Dublin and the area around it into a special dependency of the English Crown. Only those Irish people willing to become English in speech, dress and appearance were permitted to live there. The rest were hunted down and exterminated like vermin. Having been one of Western Europe's richest and most advanced countries, Ireland was transformed into one of the poorest and most backward. Henry 2nd was so successful that the Pope invited him to lead a new Crusade (against Saluddin Ayyubi) and become king of Jerusalem[60]. Ever since, the British Isles has been blighted by the *Irish troubles*. Successive English governments have been trying to resolve a problem of religious origin, as a political problem, without success.

After Saluddin Ayyubi recaptured Jerusalem on 4th July 1187 CE, the patriarch of Antioch wrote a letter to Henry 2nd in September 1187 CE, pleading for help from the old king and the English, since he saw England as a wealthy

realm[40]. By 1187 CE, Henry 2nd had paid 30,000 marks into his Jerusalem bank account[51].

In 1188 CE, Henry 2nd responded by levying the '*Saladin tithe*' – a general tax of one-tenth on income and property, except clerics' books, horses, vestments and church furniture, to finance the Third Crusade, arousing bitter resentment as it was regarded as a heavy burden[5]. The punishment for tax avoidance was excommunication. Bishops wrote to every parish in their dioceses on Christmas day announcing the due date of the tithe.[40] The ecclesiastical tithe used in 1166, 1185 and 1188 CE for financial support of the Holy Land was the most heaviest tax, based on an estimate of a man's revenues and movable property[51].

In 1189 CE, Richard the Lion-heart became king of England. On 29th September 1999, the London *Times*, described him as Richard the *Lioness-heart* – a gay warrior, because he committed unnatural acts with king Philip Augustus of France and a boy called Sancho – who was Richard's brother-in-law.

The romantic image of him is a myth i.e. film propaganda. Although he was born in Oxford, his native tongue was French[47], having spent most of his youth at his mother's court in Poitiers (Central France). During his ten-year reign as king, he spent no more than six months in England[31], visiting England twice: once for three months and later for two months[33]; a grand total of 160 days. He hated the English and England which he found wet, boring and foreign. The English hated him for increasing taxes to pay for the Third Crusade. According to the royal clerk,

Roger of Howden, Richard '*put up for sale everything he had*'. Castles, titles, official offices – whole towns were sold off – and the proceeds added to an impressively large treasury to purchase the biggest and best ships available[5]. He was even prepared to sell the city of London[21]. His reign was an unhappy one for England for it was marked by years of destructive conflict between those who governed in his absence; and years of crushing taxation as the absent tyrant drew on England's wealth to finance the Crusades[31].

While returning from the Crusade, Richard was captured and held prisoner in Germany for more than a year (Dec. 1192 – Feb. 1194 CE). During the Crusades, he had quarrelled with Duke Leopold of Austria, who never forgave Richard for throwing the Hapsburg standard into the moat at Acre[31].

Richard was released after payment of a heavy ransom of 50,000 silver marks (£3 million). The ransom sum was generated by levying swingeing taxes[5] – an ecclesiastical tithe of one-quarter on the English people[51]. Cistercian monks were so wealthy that they raised one-third of the ransom[31].

There is a statue of Richard in front of the most famous Gothic Cathedral in the world – the British Houses of Parliament, even though his native tongue was French, hated England and the English; and is buried in Fontevrault Abbey in France[41].

Royal finances and tax collection

To assist in the tax collection, William the Conqueror introduced Jews from Rouen into the British Isles for the first time; they then spread into twenty seven centres including London, Norwich, Canterbury, Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Lincoln and York. The Jews were regarded as the personal serfs of the king[3]; and under the monarch's special protection for they were also a very important source of royal finance for funding military campaigns like the Crusades. During the coronation of Richard the Lioness-heart in 1189 CE, a riot broke out when Jews tried to enter the Cathedral to give Richard a gift; thirty Jews were killed and Jewish houses were burned down. Just before Richard set off for the Third Crusade, anti-Jewish riots broke out again and the English massacred the Jews in Bury St. Edmunds and York in March 1190 CE, when feudal barons decided to wipe out their debts by killing their creditors.[21,]
Merchants, barons and prelates borrowed against incomes from their estates in Normandy from the Jews[3]. Jews paid for the construction of some of Britain's magnificent cathedrals, abbeys and castles. For example, Aaron of Lincoln helped finance the building of Lincoln Cathedral, as well as Peterborough Cathedral, St Alban's Abbey and nine Cistercian monasteries.[64]

During the reign of William the Conqueror's grandson, Stephen of Blois, Jewish houses became banks, and for security, like those that survive in Lincoln, they were the first houses of ordinary citizens to be built of stone[3].

In 1290 CE, Crusader king, Edward 1st expelled the Jews from England and seized most of their remaining assets.

Their place as royal creditors was taken by Italians and papal bankers[41].

Tax Avoidance: Lady Godiva

A famous tax avoidance scheme was one involving Countess (Lady) Godiva who persistently begged her husband, Earl Leofric of Chester to free the peasants of taxes. Eventually he agreed providing that she ride on her horse naked through the market place in front of all the people. The feudal system was put under enormous strain when millions of peasants (taxpayers) died in the Black Death. Priests and Jews (tax-collectors) were blamed for the evil of the plague. Frightened men asserted that the disease was spread by travelling Jews who poisoned the wells[31]. England became under-populated, under-developed, and inward-looking compared with other Western countries, notably France. Her recovery after the Black Death had been slow – slower than in France, Germany, Switzerland, and some Italian cities.[51]

Death of the Man of the Millennium

On 9th September 1087 CE, William the Conqueror died, about six weeks after falling off his horse in France while fighting his eldest son, Robert *Curthose* and King Philip of France. Robert (a future Crusader) had become an enemy of his father, when his father did not assign him the proprietorship of Normandy which had been promised to him. Robert went to France, and with the assistance of the king of France, committed great and frequent ravages in his father's dukedom, Normandy; he burned the towns,

put to death the people, and gave his father no little annoyance and anxiety.[4]

At his deathbed in the priory of St. Gervais, William burst into a flood of tears as he prayed for divine mercy[32]. He confessed, professing tormenting guilt and regret: '*I was bred to arms since my childhood, and am stained with the rivers of (English) blood that I have shed*'[7]. '*I have persecuted the natives of England beyond all reason. Whether gentle or simple I have cruelly oppressed them; many I unjustly disinherited; innumerable multitudes perished through me by famine or the sword...I fell on the English of the northern shires like a ravening lion. I commanded their houses and corn, with all their implements and chattels, to be burnt without distinction, and great herds of cattle and beasts of burden to be butchered wherever they are found. In this way I took revenge on multitudes of both sexes by subjecting them to the calamity of a cruel famine, and so became the barbarous murderer of many thousands, both young and old, of that fine race of people. Having gained the throne of that kingdom by so many crimes I dare not leave it to anyone but God...*'[29].

William then directed the lavish distributions of alms onto the clergy. However, as soon as he died, his magnates (aristocrats) mounted their horses and departed in haste to secure their property. The inferior attendants, observing that the gentry had disappeared, laid hands on the arms, the plates, the robes, the linens, and all the royal furniture, leaving the corpse almost naked on the floor.[4]
William's funeral was also an undignified affair. His body went mouldy quickly and two of the undertakers caught a fever from the corpse and died. A man interrupted

William's funeral shouting that William had stolen monastery land and had no right to be buried there in Caen. The man was given money to shut him up.[58]

When William's corpse was lowered into the stone coffin / sarcophagus, the monks were obliged to use some violence in forcing the overweight corpse in, because through the negligence of the masons it had been made too short. William's bowels burst, and a disgusting stench (foul smell) filled the Church, choking bystanders and the rest of the crowd.[3,4,51]. Towards the end of his life William had grown very fat (living off England's wealth). King Philip used to say that William looked like a pregnant woman[41].

1087 CE was a year of notorious fires, pestilence and famine; an appropriate epitaph for one who had brought about such dramatic and brutal changes to England through the use of force[33].

Not surprisingly, the late Cardinal Basil Hume – a cleric fluent in Hebrew and head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales nominated William the Conqueror as *man of the Millennium* on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme on 24th December 1998. However, two British historians have concluded that William was a man who seems to have been astute without wisdom, resolute without foresight, a man of very limited aims and very limited vision, narrow, ignorant and superstitious[7].

There has never been a religion in the annals of the world with such a bloody record as Christianity[2].

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